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Please copy, paste and e-mail, or fax. Addresses are at the end of the survey.

What do you think mental health professionals and therapists working with your family should know in order to best support the adoption process? Please help us develop a curriculum for professionals by answering the following questions. If there are any additional topics or sub-topics please write them in.

Please rank how important each topic below is by indicating on a scale of 1 (CRUCIAL) to 4 (NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL).

1. How important is it that your mental health professional is knowledgeable in:

State adoption laws and policies

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Preparation of the prospective adoptive family

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Preparation of the adopted child

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

2. What therapeutic issues, in regards to working with foster and adoptive youth, do you view as most important?

3. What impact has adoption had on your family? (list both positive and negative)

4. What issues that relate to diversity in adoption (transracial/transcultural), gay/lesbian families, single parent families, and open adoptions) do you view as important?

5. What tools/skills would you like the mental health professionals to know when working with your adopted child/family?

Child Development and the abused, neglected or traumatized child
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Attachment issues and the adopted child
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Development/organic issues such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Attention Deficit Disorder
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Behavior management and discipline
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

Clinical skills they possess that are necessary for working with and relating to adoption
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Crucial Important Somewhat important Not important

6. What topics from those listed above would you OMIT in a curriculum developed for mental health professionals?

7. What other topics would you like to see INCLUDED to support and provide effective therapy for adoptive families and children?

8. Can you provide any names of people in your area who could train therapists and mental health professionals in the topics listed above?

9. Has your family used a therapist for adoption issues?

What qualities in the therapist were positive?

What would you like them to have done differently?

Did you feel they were knowledgeable in the issue of adoption such as grief and loss, transitioning behaviors, sabotaging placement or other issues? Please be specific.

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